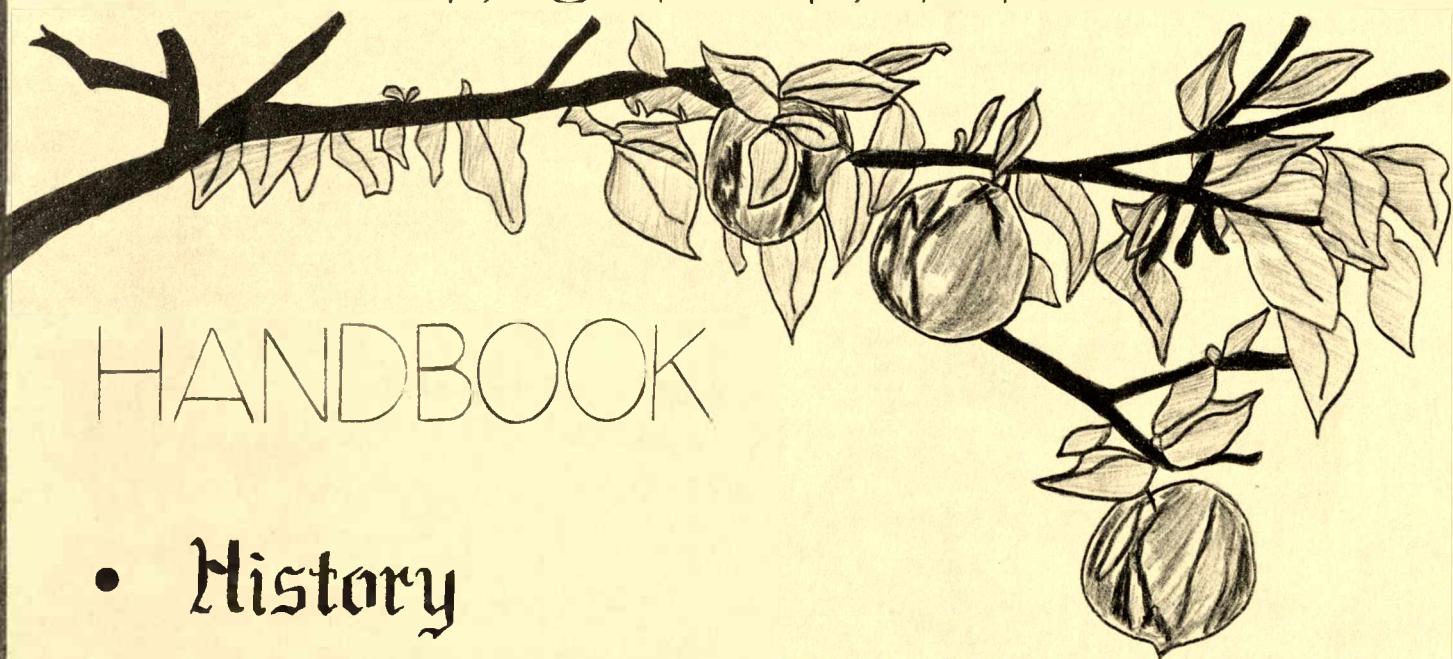


# VIGO COUNTY LIBRARY Staff Association

1954 - 1974



## HANDBOOK

- History
- Past Presidents
- Committees
- Appointments
- Annual Report, 1972-73
- By-Laws

# A HISTORY OF THE VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF SOME PAST-PRESIDENTS

Reminiscences about the Staff Association Beginnings  
at the Time of Its Fifteenth Anniversary

by

Louise L. Campbell, Pres. 1955-56

When a person is asked to reminisce it is evident that he or she has lived a long time, otherwise he wouldn't have much to pull out of his memory bag. Asking for reminiscences is also asking for a bit of rambling, for there are no sharp beginnings or endings when one is browsing through memories.

Now to swing into the 15th birthday celebration of the Staff Association - why did the Emmy staff form an association in January 1954? Mainly because our head librarian, Mr. Taylor, told us we wanted one, and we believed him, although we were not sure why.

What was the purpose of forming such an organization? The best answer is to quote from the original Constitution adopted April 10, 1954 - Article II.

*The purpose of this association shall be:*

- a. *To work for the greater welfare of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Public Library system.*
- b. *To raise the professional standards of the staff.*
- c. *To promote the mutual understanding and welfare of the staff.*

The present by-laws which the association is using today state exactly the same three purposes. So we have not changed our purposes in the last 15 years.

How did we go about achieving our purposes in those early days, and what were some of the accomplishments?

First, the size of the staff was only about one-third as large as our present one. We began with 16 working members and one member of the staff on leave. We had 5 officers (president, vice-president elect, secretary-treasurer, and 2 directors) and 3 standing committees (program and social, salary and job analysis, and welfare.) Special committees appointed during the year included: constitution and by-laws, special salary (appointed by Mr. Taylor), personnel code, branch hours, special social event, and nominating.

It is evident at a glance that there were many more jobs than we had members, so everyone served on several committees. This

brings me to another outstanding difference between then and now. In the early years all staff association work was done on the members' own time; that included meeting time, committee time, shopping time for gifts and everything else! In other words, no company time was allowed for any Staff Association work. What did we accomplish during that first year of our life?

I would like to answer that by sharing with you excerpts from the annual report of our first president, Mrs. Irene McDonough, for the year 1954:

1. An entirely new organization has been formed complete with constitution, officers, and standing and special committees.
2. The salary committee has studied and completely revised the salary scale. The resulting scale has been adopted and is in use.
3. The personnel code committee has completed an extensive code approved by the association and awaiting the approval of the Library Board.
4. The program committee has assisted the librarian in planning the programs for the staff meetings.
5. Headed by the program and social committee, the members have enjoyed three social occasions: a welcome dinner, a summer picnic, and a Christmas party.
6. The welfare committee has set up a standard plan for recognizing sickness, deaths, marriages, etc. among staff members, thus providing the way for the group to act as a unit.
7. The welfare committee has installed a coke machine for the convenience of staff members and patrons.
8. The welfare committee has begun the renovation of the staff room and women's public rest room. (This improvement project was completed the next year, 1955, as far as possible until electrical changes could be made.
9. Under the supervision of the librarian, the association sponsored an open house for patrons and community on November 18, 1954 during Book Week.

It was during the first year that the pattern was set by which the association has continued to function. It became and has continued to be the vehicle through which members and the library can get things done.

To tell those who were not on the staff 10 years ago and to remind those who were, may I say this is not our first birthday celebration, but our second. When the organization was 5 years old I was asked to summarize our accomplishments at a special birthday staff program. May I touch briefly on a few important areas:

The salary budget almost doubled:

1954 - \$50,615.00

1959 - \$96,738.00

Staff members received training and practice in program planning and in staging of planned programs as part of an in-service education program (now known as staff

development.)

- \* A well-furnished staff room with coffee, tea, and coke is enjoyed through association sponsorship.
- \* Book ordering through the association offers substantial discount and encourages the buying of books for personal use and for gifts.
- \* Through the years the association has been responsible for the collection of United Fund and Red Cross contributions and for both I.L.A and A.L.A dues if members desire.

As I look back at those first years, I believe now as I did then that the Staff Association has contributed substantially to the successes which the library system has enjoyed during the years. Let me repeat what I said 10 years ago, "What has come from the Association has been possible only because of what has gone into it - hard work, time, interest, such ability as we have, and a belief in its worth to the members and to the library."

In order not to end on such a high and lofty note, may I call your attention to the fact that all during these first years we were living in what was known as the "Purple Era" (all duplication was done on the spirit duplicator which would reproduce only Purple. As you can see, some of it is fading badly.)

May the achievements of the Staff Association be more lasting, just as our present processes provide more durable reproductions. We have moved out of the Purple Era; may we move into what we may be able someday to call the "Golden Age."

*(The above "reminiscences" by Mrs. Campbell were given at Staff Association's commemoration of its fifteenth anniversary at October staff meeting, on Oct. 10, 1968.)*

### Staff Association After Fifteen Years and into the Future

by

Charlotte Williams, Pres. 1968-69

In 1954 the membership was originally 16. We now have 42 members and the Executive Board, that once consisted of 3 officers and 2 directors, now has 4 officers and one member-at-large. Instead of 3 standing committees, we now have 6 standing committees, 5 special appointments, and special committees appointed as the occasions arise. A closer look at the organization and its functioning finds an Executive Board, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and member-at-large meeting the 1st Tuesday of each month to make decisions when necessary between the regular staff association meetings.

Committees are active too. It is the duty of Professional Interest Committee, for example, to act in the interest and welfare of the staff and the administration this committee is responsible for revising as well as interpreting the Personnel Code, and the Staff Manual. They implement orientation that is required for each new staff member, collect fees and encourage I.L.A. membership--

which boasts 100% membership for many years because of this committee. They are responsible for our fine representation in A.L.A. This Committee has endorsed other professional activities, such as sending students to the Library Page Workshops at Indiana University and Purdue University. One outgrowth of PI Committee work reached statewide. In the rounds of collecting I.L.A. dues last year, our Professional Interest Chairman, Ann Silliman, heard the complaint from several of the clerks that the I.L.A. Conference offered nothing for the Clerical Staff. Ann decided to write to the "powers that be" suggesting that something should be done. The I.L.A. State Planning Committee agreed and gave Ann the job of planning a clerical program for I.L.A. conference. A great deal of time and effort went into this planning, but she did a terrific job. For the first time there was a definite program for the Clerical and Non-Professional staff at the I.L.A. Conference.

The Program Planning Committee is chaired by the Vice-President or President-elect, and is responsible for 4 planned programs for staff meetings during the year.

The Salary and Job Analysis Committee serves both the staff and the administration in interpreting proposed salary changes to staff, considering questions and suggestions from the staff, assisting in writing or revising job analysis and in conducting time studies. All recommendations and proposals are governed by the Administration and the Board.

The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for setting up and operating within the proposed budget. We now have an operating budget of \$510.00 for 1968-69. Since the major part of our income comes from coffee, coke and candy sales at EFML, we are happy to be able to get along without money-making projects. The treasurer or chairman of this committee also serves as the United Fund solicitor, to which we give 100%.

The Welfare Committee plays a very important part, with responsibility for cards, gifts or flowers in case of illness, deaths, weddings or special occasions.

The Staff Room Committee operates quietly, but is very important to the Main Library. The Staff Room is maintained by the Staff Association.

A special committee this year consists of the three past presidents plus another staff member to serve as Historian. 15 years of accumulated records will be weeded and filed in a safe place for future reference. The Historian will be responsible for their safe keeping.

We also have five appointments that add greatly to the functioning of the association: Book Orders, Social Co-ordinator, Junior Staff Advisor, Parliamentarian and Staff Reporter.

Although it may not have been written as a purpose of the by-laws, one of the most outstanding accomplishments has been

## And A Challenge For Future Years

by

Jane Covert, Pres. 1973-74

After weathering many changes and many problems, Staff Association should be proud of its twenty years as an organization.

But let's not become too complacent in our victory. Let's keep in mind how we reached these twenty years. Only with the cooperation and honest effort of each and every staff member have we been a success.

Some of us feel we have done our stint for the organization and now it's time for someone else to "pick up the load." This may be true, but we forget one thing. Our membership in Staff Association is 51 - nine more than in 1968-69. That isn't a very big increase and should explain why it is so necessary for all members to share the duties and responsibilities of the association.

If you feel you have either too much work or too little time, you are only sharing the same thought in someone else's mind. This kind of thinking can end only in group inertia and inaction.

If we continue to exist - and that has been a question asked - we cannot slack off and refuse to take an active part in the association.

If we are to remove the state of apathy that threatens the association, we must utilize the imagination and creativity existent in every member.

Staff Association still stands for the interest, welfare, and social fellowship of the staff. It still is eager to exchange ideas and opinions with the Administration.

What appears to have changed in the association is staff willingness to support and pursue these goals.

Let us now, on this twentieth anniversary, be determined to resume the willingness to bring strength and vitality to so worthwhile an organization.

## LIST OF PRESIDENTS OF VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

1954	Irene McDonough
1955	Louise Campbell
1956 (first half)	Maryann Peters Harris (resigned 9-56)
1956 (second half)	Martha Reynolds
1957	Martha Reynolds
1958	Charlotte Walker
1959	Betty Martin
1960	Elizabeth Damon
1961	Ann Silliman
1962	Genevieve Reisner
1963	Betsy Ross
1964	Ann Newman
1965	Frances Boyd
1966	Lillian Laybold
1967	Vula Malooley
1968	Charlotte Williams
1969	Harmon Boyd
1970	Louise Barrick
1971	Virginia Smith
1972	Marie Long
1973	Jane Covert

## STANDING COMMITTEES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES

FINANCE

Chairman: Treasurer, three members appointed by the President.

Duties: Responsible for assessing the material needs of the Staff Association and for determining a workable budget for an official year.

STAFF INTEREST

Composed of four members appointed by the President.

Duties: Prime responsibility is encouraging staff growth. The orientation of new staff members to the Staff Association, and the selection of a recipient to attend the annual Page Workshop are also duties of this committee.

PROGRAM

Chairman: Vice-President, four members appointed by the President.

Duties: Planning and executing 4 library related programs of one hour duration to be presented at the October, January, March and April Staff Meetings.

SALARY

Composed of four members appointed by the President.

Duties: Studies salaries of libraries of comparable size, keeps abreast of cost-of-living increases, and makes a recommendation to the Director for consideration.

STAFF ROOM

Composed of 4 members appointed by the President.

Duties: Responsible for selecting articles of furniture and materials as need for the Staff Room.

WELFARE

Composed of 4 members appointed by the President.

Duties: Responsible for sending cards and flowers in case of illness or death and for selecting gifts for resigning or retiring staff members.

## SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

### SOCIAL COORDINATOR

Duties: Coordinates all social activities of the Staff Association including coffees at Staff Meetings to the more formal Christmas party. The Social Coordinator and the President jointly select staff members to assist at the various functions.

### HISTORIAN

Duties: Secures and maintains recorded minutes of all committee meetings for future reference.

### REPORTER

Duties: Gathers and prepares news items about staff members for publication in the monthly Staff Bulletin.

### BOOK ORDER

Duties: Places orders for books and materials at a reduced rate for staff members.

### PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Duties: Acts as public relations person in promoting the Staff Association.

### PARLIAMENTARIAN

Duties: Acts as resource person interpreting Roberts' Rules of Order during Staff Association Meetings.

## STAFF ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1972-1973

This has once again been a year of trials and a year of strength derived from those trials. One of those trials was the loss of Bill Tanner, former head of maintenance, who passed away after an extended illness. Bill will be sadly missed by his many friends at VCPL.

Twelve new staff members were honored at Recognition Coffees at the September and May meetings.

The September meeting was held at the South Branch Library and the October meeting was held at the Historical Museum. All other meetings were held in the Juvenile Room at the Main Library. Coffee and rolls were enjoyed during the break between all Staff Association and Staff Meetings.

The duties of the Social Coordinator were revised and expanded to include the following: The Social Coordinator was responsible for 1) arranging facilities for any meetings held outside the Main Library, 2) arranging for facility materials for refreshments with the Staff Room Committee, and 3) selecting the refreshment committee for each meeting. This arrangement has proven to be a tremendous assist to the President.

A special By-Laws committee was appointed to study and up-date the section concerning eligibility of Staff Association membership. The committee recommended an amendment to the By-Laws that would permit part-time staff members to become eligible for membership. The amendment was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Ed Howard, VCPL Director, generously gave a \$100 check to the Staff Association for its use. He received the check for a

personal sponsorship of Joe Lindenfeld during his study of VCPL. Mr. Howard's gift was graciously and gratefully accepted.

The Association sponsored Sondra Hull, student assistant at Plaza North Branch, to attend the Page Workshop at Purdue University.

The Executive Board (acting in the name and interest of the Association) formally reiterated its support of the Junior Staff Association in a letter to Carol Sutherland, Advisor to the Junior Staff Association.

Copies of the duties of each committee will be made available to the President, Vice-President, and the Historian. They will be included in the respective notebooks as a result of an idea and recommendation of staff member, Geraldine Flint. This type of interest is indicative of the Association's strength.

Due to the rise in costs, the Welfare Committee found it necessary to revise the monetary stipulations in the Committee Policy. The revision was unanimously accepted.

A hot drink vending machine was placed on trial in the Staff Room for a week in October towards possible purchase. The Staff Room Committee recommended not to purchase. Their recommendation was accepted.

A definite effort has been made to clear the Association files of superfluous past records. A recommendation was previously made at the May 1972 Staff Association to: Retain the reports of the Executive Board (President's notebook), Secretary, and Treasurer indefinitely and to retain all other reports for 3 years only. This recommendation was tabled. It was removed from the table, and

Harmon Boyd, Vula Malooley, and Virginia Smith (immediate Past President) were appointed to complete this project. It was further agreed that beginning with the 73-74 year, this duty to keep these records up to date would be accepted by the immediate Past President and the Historian.

A copy of the newly revised Robert's Rules of Order was purchased for easy access to and use by the association President.

I wish to thank the committee chairmen and the staff members who served on various committees. I also wish to assure you that your attendance and participation at Staff Association meetings is vitally important whether you actually serve on a committee or not. To each of you goes my appreciation for your interest in and your support of our Staff Association this past year. I trust that both your interest and your support will remain healthy and will continue to thrive under the able leadership of our new Staff Association President for 1973-74, Jane Covert.

Thanks to each of you for a rewarding year.

Marie Long, President, 1972-73  
VCPL Staff Association

*BY-LAWS*  
*VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY*  
*STAFF ASSOCIATION*

*Approved: May 10, 1973*

**ARTICLE I**  
Name

The name of this organization shall be the Vigo County Public Library Staff Association.

**ARTICLE II**  
Purposes

The purposes of this association shall be:

- a. To advance the interests of the Vigo County Public Library System.
- b. To raise the professional standards of the staff.
- c. To promote the economic welfare and social fellowship of the staff.
- d. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions between Staff and Administration to promote mutual understanding.

**ARTICLE III**  
Membership and Dues

Sec. 1. All full-time staff members and part-time hourly employees whose rate of pay is computed on an annual salary basis, appointed to the staff by the Vigo County Library Board, are eligible for membership in the association.

The Director and Assistant Director are not eligible for membership in the association.

Sec. 2. All retired staff members are granted Honorary Life Membership.

Sec. 3. Membership is to be forfeited unless annual dues are paid.

Sec. 4. Annual dues shall be payable at the annual meeting in May and delinquent by September 1.

Sec. 5. Members appointed to the staff on or after January 1 shall pay, for that year, dues equivalent to one-half the regular dues, plus social assessments.

ARTICLE IV  
Officers and Their Election

Sec. 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President (President-elect), a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Sec. 2. The officers shall be elected at the May meeting and take office immediately. Voting shall be by ballot whenever there are two or more candidates for one office.

Sec. 3. The President shall be elected for a term of one year, with the Vice-President as the President-elect. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the Vice-President shall succeed to that office. In addition to the unexpired term, he shall serve the year for which he was elected President. The Secretary and the Treasurer may serve in the same office for two terms consecutively.

Sec. 4. The duties of the officers shall be:

- a. The President shall officiate at regular and social meetings and shall be ex-officio member of all committees.
- b. The Vice-President shall officiate during the absence of the President, and shall serve as Chairman of the Program Committee.
- c. The Secretary shall carry on all correspondence of the Association and shall keep minutes of all transactions at regular, special, and board meetings of the Association.
- d. The Treasurer shall, upon authorization of the Executive Board and President collect all dues and other monies; shall pay all bills of the Association; and shall serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE V  
Meetings

Sec. 1. Regular meetings shall be held monthly from September through May, except in December.

Sec. 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Board.

Sec. 3. The meeting in May shall be designated as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and committees, conducting regular business that may arise, and electing officers.

Sec. 4. A quorum for this Association shall consist of a majority of the enrolled membership.

ARTICLE IV  
Executive Board

Sec. 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the four officers and one other member, this member to be elected at the May meeting for a term of one year. The immediate past president shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board.

Sec. 2. The Executive Board shall transact all business of the Association between regular meetings of the Association.

Sec. 3. Vacancies in elective offices shall be filled by a vote of the membership at the first regular meeting at which the vacancy is made known.

ARTICLE VII  
Committees

Sec. 1. Standing committees shall be Finance, Staff Interest, Program, Salary, Staff Room, and Welfare. These Committees shall be appointed by the incoming President at the May meeting.

Sec. 2. Special committees may be appointed, or elected, as needed.

ARTICLE VIII  
Parliamentary Authority

The Association shall be governed by ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

ARTICLE XI  
Amendment

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any regular meeting, provided a copy of the proposed amendment, or amendments, has been submitted to the members in writing at least two weeks before the meeting.

## VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION APPROVED:

April 10, 1954

Revised/Amended:

Nov. 6, 1954

March 3, 1956

May 5, 1956

March 1, 1958

Jan. 6, 1962

Feb. 12, 1970

March 11, 1971

May 10, 1973

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Libraries (TH)-VCPL)

Page 6

A REVEALING TOUR OF THE  
EMELINE FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Vigo County Public Library  
Community Affairs File

By Lori Deldon

I was shocked and astounded when I recently visited the old Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library building!

Limestone walls and classic architecture tend to hide the deficiencies that become apparent when one takes a guided tour through the 1906 structure.

The first problem is getting to the building. The visitor is discouraged by the almost complete lack of parking space. After parking an inconvenient number of blocks away, I was then faced with a climb up a flight of steps to enter the building. In fact, if you can't climb steps, you're out of luck, because there are more inside the building -- a real barrier to the elderly or handicapped.

Crowded into what was designed as a lobby back when libraries were just for lending books, are the operations of circulation, information, ~~xerox~~, card catalog, Reader's Guide and other Indexes, a paperback rack, and the only display area the building can now accommodate.

At the North end of the building, what was once a spacious Reading Room is now the Reference Room crowded with bookshelves, filing cabinets, and other reference services and materials. (I had heard of the "information explosion" but here it was before my eyes!).

At the south end - the children have long since been relegated to the basement - the room designed for them now contains biographies, the large print book collection, the phonorecords, magazines, newspapers, 8mm films and new books, plus a corner space made into an office.

The stack area with its mezzanine facing the west off the lobby must accommodate today's 150,000 books and series of bound volumes of periodicals, instead of the 20,000 books of 1906. It is dark below the balcony, too sunny above, suffocating in summer and has the poorest conditions of temperature and humidity possible - for both books and humans. This is an intolerable situation when you are concerned with saving and preserving one-of-a-kind scrapbooks and documents.

I noticed that noise is a disturbing factor throughout the library. There simply isn't any quiet area or space for the public or the staff. The unavoidable noise accompanying such vital instruments as telephones, typewriters, teletypewriter, copying machines, etc., cannot be isolated since work areas for staff must be crowded into corners of rooms originally designed for quiet reading and study. As an example, patrons wishing to utilize the services of the Group Services Librarian often must compete with the noise from the film inspection equipment, the multilith, typewriters, telephone, and even the sound track from a film, since all activities are contained within the same area.

Space is at a premium throughout the building with chairs and tables in direct conflict with the need to find shelving and filing space. My guide explained that every conceivable re-arrangement has been tried to accommodate people and materials but capacity has long since been reached. Shelves are filled, file drawers jammed to the limit and even the space saving benefit of microfilm is diminished when you run out of room for microfilm cabinets and readers.

A sign by the stairway leading down to the basement says that the visitor will find the Children's Room, Young Adult area, Group Services, A-V, and the public restrooms. Once down, I was surprised to find many more book stacks and areas marked Technical Services, Extension, Supply Room, Staff Room, all in space which was largely unused in 1906.

The crowded conditions of those areas loosely defined as staff offices (many are only a hockcase away from public areas) is at best, inefficient. The Director's Office is the only room where a private conference or discussion is possible. Requests to use the office are frequent and an obvious disruption to the Director's work. The Technical Services Department handled over 58,000 items of material during 1972 in an area that was originally the men's public restroom. All materials for the entire county library system are ordered, cataloged, processed, repaired and handled by six full-time staff members in this single room which also contains the equipment related to these activities.

There are no longer public meeting rooms at the Main Library. Those originally provided have long since given way to the needs for service areas such as the Audio Visual department. Even the children's story hour had to be discontinued and is conducted only through the branch libraries. The materials for young adults are housed along a hallway with a folding table and chairs the only invitation to their use.

These are a few of the obvious deficiencies, but certainly not the whole story. Lack of space has deeper effects. I was told that the selection of all types of material must constantly be prefaced with the question of "where will it be housed?". Each new acquisition requires a time consuming decision on what must be deleted to provide space. Material that should not be discarded must be stored outside the building, making it completely inaccessible for the time being.

Library patrons find self service difficult too, because the material must be arranged to conform to the building's limitations, and, therefore, must request staff assistance to locate material. Job specifications for library staff must often be tailored to the building's needs and not for the best utilization of personnel. All equipment purchases are limited by the space that is not available. Far too much staff time is spent in coping with the problems created by overcrowding that should be spent in more worthwhile pursuits.

Before I began my tour of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library building I thought I understood the need for a new main library building. After the tour, I realized the situation is far more critical than I had imagined and I strongly recommend that others see for themselves how urgently Vigo County needs a new main library.

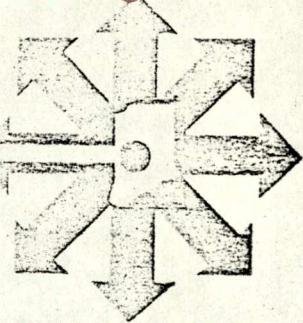
Libraries (T.H.) - Local Hist Rm  
VCP

# TERRE HAUTE

Area Chamber of Commerce

631 CHERRY ST., TERRE HAUTE, IND. 47808

Ph: 232-2391



Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

October 17, 1973

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Dear Chamber Member:

The Communications Committee of the Chamber under the Chairmanship of Russ Howard has worked long and hard in formulating a program for a better understanding and a true picture of Terre Haute's Past, Present and Future. This program has been shown to two or three service groups and was enthusiastically acclaimed. The film which was made possible by the cooperation of the public library is available by loan to any group desiring to use it on a program basis, but so that the general public might have an opportunity to see this fine work, Channel 38 is producing a thirty minute show Sunday, October 21 at 4:00 p.m. A lot of work by a lot of our members has gone into this production and we would appreciate, if at all possible, your seeing and hearing this program and would appreciate your comments.

Yours very truly,

Ralph Tucker  
Executive Vice-President

RT/et

23 October

I have been informed that the program will be repeated on Sunday Channel 38 in prime time on Nov 1st. In the last instance, the TV listing was "Our City," which is the title of the film. Also, it may be shown soon on TV 2 and TV 10. Ed

Community Affairs

Vigo County Public Library

# School Board Libraries (Ind.) To Investigate S FEB 7 1973 Library Books

GAS CITY, Ind. (UPI) — The Mississinewa School Board has called for an investigation into whether pornographic and offensive books are in the library of Mississinewa High School.

The call was issued Monday night after board member Hugh Swetnam brought two books from the library about which he said he had received complaints from parents. The two were "The Naked Face" and "The Snake."

Swetnam said "we're getting trash" in the library. He added that he finds it upsetting that the U.S. Supreme Court could

## One Available

The Vigo County Public Library reported Tuesday night "The Naked Face" was listed in its card file, but was on loan. "The Snake" was not listed in the card file of books.

define religion to keep it out of the schools, but could not define pornography to exclude it.

School Superintendent Paul McPherson said the books had been selected from a catalog of suggested literature from the American Association of Libraries on the basis of reviews. He added that sometimes these were "scanty reviews," which made it difficult to decide what a book was about.

Mississinewa Principal Charles Townsend agreed, quoting the review of "The Naked Face" as saying the book was "hard to put down" and a "must" for high schools libraries.

The board members suggested a committee of parents and students be used to review books before they are placed in the library, but formal action on this was delayed because the board noted it would be hard to get a non-biased committee.

There is a historical room and the local historical material has been copied, bound, catalogued after it had been collected or given as gifts during the years 1934-1936. These are now filed for use of those who may find valuable information.

Marriage licenses, Vigo County, Indiana, 1818-1850.

Marriages, births, 1844-1854. Copied from St. Joseph's records.

A lineage book compiled from the papers of the Fort Harrison Chapter, D. A. R.

Copy made from the original land book which is owned by the Hendrix abstract office, Vigo county court house.

Revolutionary war; list of soldiers who fell at Bunker Hill.

Revolutionary war; list of soldiers from Virginia.

Civil war letters written by Capt. Josiah C. Williams to his family, 1860-1864.

Terre Haute world war records.

Diaries of the forty-niners:

William Beatty Ogle, Prairieton, Ind., 1850, trip to California, overland route.

Martin S. Jones, notes of a tour to the gold regions of California, 1850.

John F. Riker, journal of a trip to California by the overland route, 1852.

Dr. Septer Patrick, letters written to newspapers on his way to California, 1850.

W. H. Wiley, the bringing up of William H. Wiley, told in paragraphs and without dedication, April 24, 1906.

Public school education in Terre Haute, Ind. One hundred years of history, 2 vols. William H. Wiley.

Copy of a pamphlet entitled: Gen. William Henry Harrison, candidate of the people for President of the United States, published in 1840.

Mattox, Samuel H.; diary and civil war letters borrowed from his daughter.

Diary of M. K. St. John, 1857-1866. Mr. St. John was a student of Lane University, sent to Africa in 1857 as a medical missionary. His diary describes the life of a missionary in Africa.

Excerpts, one hundred years ago, 9245

Excerpts, one hundred years ago, early history of Jackson county.

One is delighted to study the dome which holds the central place in the top of the library, a dome of art glass and the photographs of the following men of prominence who have been important in the building and welfare of the city and the nation.

These men were selected by the late Mr. Fairbanks and were included in the planning for the library. They are:

Thomas A. Edison, William Shakespeare, Daniel W. Voorhees, Rosa Bonheur, Lew Wallace, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Harriet Beecher Stowe, H. W. Longfellow, R. W. Thompson, Mark Twain, Ludwig Beethoven, Victor Hugo, Washington Irving and James Whitcomb Riley.

The first librarian was Mrs. Lucy Wanner, with her daughter as assistant. She continued until her resignation in 1894 when she was succeeded by Miss Leatha Paddock, who was librarian for 12 years and was succeeded by Mrs. Sallie Hughes, during whose administration the school libraries were opened. Mrs. Hughes died and Miss Florence Crawford, the present librarian, succeeded her in February of 1927 and during her regime the library has gone forward in a rapid manner.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

# Valle Elected President Of VCSC Trustee Board

## Vote Down Community Affairs File Separation Libraries (T.H.) Of Boards

S JUL 3 1973  
By JOE BOLAND

Star Staff Writer

The so-called "philosophical" majority of four on the Vigo County School Corp. board of trustees relented long enough to elect John Valle president of the board for the coming year but reasserted itself shortly thereafter to defeat a minority resolution to create a Class I library board.

Dr. Iverson Bell, who has opposed board separation in the past, introduced the resolution at a special meeting of the Vigo County Public Library board of trustees immediately following the statutory reorganization of the school board.

The impetus for the move toward a separate library board came several months ago when bond counsel told VCPL Attorney Jordan Lewis the present library board could not be approved for a bonding issue to construct a new library building.

Presently both the VCSC and VCPL boards comprise the same seven members elected for staggered four-year terms.

Peter A. Farmer, Paul Haas, William Llewellyn and John Sutherland, all of whom have a year left to serve on their terms, are regarded as the philosophical majority of the board. The four, along with VCSC Supt. C. Kenneth Cottom are cited repeatedly in a law suit filed last April against the

See SCHOOL BOARD  
On Page 14, Column 1

## School Board

Continued From Page 1

VCSC board and Cottom that has brought to a halt all but routine business of the school system.

In opposing the move to create a separate library board, Haas said, "I haven't any faith whatsoever in (Vigo) Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson. I can't make myself believe he would appoint three people who would be in favor of the library."

Had the measure been ap-

proved as was expected, Judge Anderson would have appointed three library board members, the Vigo County commissioners three members, and the VCSC board two members. It was Judge Anderson who granted a temporary injunction against the school board as sought in the class-action suit.

+ + +

Haas said he is "well aware of what has gone on in the past in school-building programs — what amounted to legalized stealing," he said. He said he cannot in good conscience vote to separate the boards when the library building program is coming up.

"The public can turn me out of office," Haas said, "but I couldn't have it on my conscience." He contended a way can be found to build the new main library under the present setup.

Haas followed Llewellyn who said he could not be in favor of a politically controlled board. He said he would be glad to step down as a library trustee if the situation changes, but not under present circumstances.

John Sutherland echoed Haas and Llewellyn. He said he was elected to do a job and that he felt he had a responsibility to the people who elected him.

+ + +

Ironically, had the present board been operating under the Public Library Law of 1947 as a Class I board, Sutherland's seat on the board would have been declared vacant, since the statute stipulates a seat shall be declared vacant when the member is absent for six consecutive meetings. According to VCPL board minutes, Sutherland has rarely attended a library board meeting other than when the meeting followed a regular VCSC board meeting, except for the last two months since the separation question arose.

Both Valle, the new board president, and Mrs. Charlotte Caldwell supported Dr. Bell's motion to create a Class I board.

Valle argued that the library board is not likely to become a "political football" since there is no monetary compensation involved. He added that he has faith in the elected public officials who would be the appointing authorities.

Mrs. Caldwell said she has enjoyed being a member of the library board; but, she added she felt others would have more time and more constructive ideas to contribute.

+ + +

As for the concerns expressed over the political aspect of a Class I board, Mrs. Caldwell said they "don't hold water." She said all you have to do is look at the last two school board elections to see how politics has been involved in a supposedly non-political campaign. She pointed out also that there is more protection in the law of 1947 than at present.

Valle pointed out further that he felt in his first year as a library board member, the VCPL has been independent of the school board. He noted that on several occasions there was no quorum for a meeting and rarely were all seven members present.

Several library staff members were present for the meeting, apparently in anticipation of a favorable vote by the trustees.

At the outset of the meeting, Mrs. Susan Ward, president of HELP (Housewives' Effort for Local Progress), urged the board to approve the separation of the boards. Reflecting the confidence of most persons present that the board would approve the measure, Mrs. Ward had distributed to the press advance copies of a statement praising the board for taking the action.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

+ + +  
Other officers elected at the  
VCSO board meeting are Farmer,  
vice president; Llewellyn,  
secretary, and Haas, deputy se-  
cretary.

Haas nominated Farmer for  
an unprecedented fourth term  
as president, but Farmer declined  
the nomination stating he felt  
new leadership is needed. Farm-  
er then nominated Valle, who  
was seated on the board last  
July.

Following the election of of-  
ficers, Jordan Lewis was retain-  
ed again as school attorney,  
Thelma Nasser as treasurer,  
and Alex Menestrina as deputy  
treasurer. Minestrina became  
assistant superintendent of  
business Sunday, the effective  
date of former Comptroller  
Harry McCullough's retirement.